

CENDEP NEWSLETTER

September 2021

Centre for Development and Emergency Practice

Welcome to the Newsletter:

The new academic year marks a new beginning for CENDEP when we welcome students and staff back to campus after a long period of online communication. But at the same time, the online presence, learning and interaction continues into the new academic year as we have established new networks and mode of working during the pandemic. Our work in teaching, research and advocacy has continued and expanded and we are proudly receiving our students online and onsite to a very active centre. The online presence has resulted in closer and more continuous collaboration with colleagues all over the world. In this issue, you can read about our different research projects and consultancies. Supriya Akerkar authored a report to UN Dept of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) on Gender and Older People in August 2021. We have also contributed to the case study on the Economic impact of the Syrian Refugee Crisis in Lebanon, commissioned by the World Refugee and Migration Council.

Shelter and housing in the context of disasters continues to be a central pillar in our work and Sue Webb introduces the new report on Mental Health and Shelter. Zoe Jordan reports from our project on Education to Employment for young people in Lebanon & Jordan, & EL Laskar introduces this year's festival theme: Movement.

This year, we are organising the 20th Oxford Human Rights Festival and look forward to a year of events that places Human Rights on the agenda. We have started with a photo exhibition at the Common Grounds, Oxford. Rights have become more important than ever in the context of compounded crises that we witness across the world. As a team, we at CENDEP are committed to continue to place human rights violations, inequalities and injustices on the agenda through our work.

Cathrine Brun,
CENDEP Director

What's new at CENDEP?

- 'From Education to Employment?' project update
- Mindful Sheltering: a new publication from CENDEP and CARE International
- The Economic Impact of the Syrian Refugee Crisis in Lebanon
- Celebrating 20 years of the Oxford Human Rights Festival
- Research on Gender and Older People
- Meet a Student: Josefina Torres Pohl, MA DEP Alumna
- 'The Next Generation Young Rohingya Refugees'

Oxford Human Rights Festival showcases



Write for CENDEP blog and newsletter

Email your contributions to cendep@brookes.ac.uk
State the year you were studying at CENDEP and the course you have completed.
Feel free to write to us in case you would like to first discuss a relevant topic for publication.

‘From Education to Employment?’ project update

We are now in the final weeks of our research project “From Education to Employment? Youth trajectories in contexts of protracted displacement”, funded by ESRC-GCRF and IDRC-MENA. Since our last update, colleagues in Jordan and Lebanon have been working closely with young people living in Amman, Beirut, Saida, and the Bekaa on collaborative analysis of our research materials. The purpose of this shared analysis is to centre young people’s explanations of their education and employment trajectories, and to understand how they perceive the importance of legal status, nationality, socio-economic background, and gender, among other factors.

Alongside meetings and discussions, this has also involved the young people developing and producing creative outputs, including a documentary, short films, drawings, and creative writing. These artworks will soon be available online, along with reflections from research staff based at CENDEP and the Centre for Lebanese Studies in Beirut and Amman, from the artistic professionals who facilitated the work, and from the young people themselves, so keep an eye out on our social media for updates!

We’re also excited to launch the report based on our quantitative survey later this month – for more about this and other upcoming events, see the Centre for Lebanese Studies website

Research on Gender and Older People

Undertaking a critical literature review, Supriya Akerkar has submitted a commissioned research report to UN Dept of Economic and Social Affairs on Gender and Older People. The paper will be used by UN DESA to develop policy advice on social policies for Member States.

The research analyses transition conjunctures traversed by older women and men: widow/widowerhood; menopause; work, social pension and retirement pathways; grand-parenting and caring roles; health and abuse. Their transition trajectories show the need to counter the over-arching medicalised public policy discourse of dependency and decline about older people with heterogeneous social accounts highlighting the voice and contributions of older women and men. Gendered roles played over life course affect opportunities and social constraints faced by older women and men, for example the unpaid care work done by older women over the life course, result in their lowered social pensions and higher financial insecurities.

Highlighting the inadequacy of the current gender analysis frameworks used by international development organisations, the paper offers new methodologies founded on incorporation of three new analytical strands into gender analysis: ageing and life course; transition conjunctures and trajectories; and narratives.

News from MA HAP

The Master in Humanitarian Action and Peacebuilding (MA HAP) delivered together with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research aims at investigating the intersections between the elements of the triple nexus: humanitarian action, peacebuilding and development. It proposes modules on cross-cutting issues such as conflict and culture sensitivities or leadership and team management. It also proposes a series of optional modules covering cutting-edge issues such as protection, urban crises and stabilisation.

From this academic year, new modules will be gradually developed on well-being and psycho-social issues, forced migrations, international humanitarian law and localisation agenda. Practitioners currently in the field will embark on a learning journey with experts from CENDEP and UNITAR.

<https://www.brookes.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/humanitarian-action-and-peacebuilding/>

Contact person: **Brigitte Piquard**
bpiquard@brookes.ac.uk

News from MA DEP:

The outgoing batch of MA DEP students has worked on a range of contemporary challenges as their dissertation research topics, reflecting on their year-long course work. Topics include conflict and refugees issues; the resettlement and acculturation of refugee women in Australia; gender specific support to refugees in the UK; international law and rescue of migrants at sea, among others. Covid19 crisis also led to new research on perceptions and responses to Covid19 in Ghana, mental health support during Covid19, and inclusion of Roma travellers in Covid19 response.

One dissertation explored a relatively less covered topic, namely LGBT experiences in disaster recoveries. Other dissertations include normative critique of rights-based approaches as a topic, among many others. All dissertations make excellent new knowledge contributions.

We now look forward to welcoming the new batch of DEP students 2021-22. We plan to undertake face-to-face teaching in the coming semesters and work with our students to bring out their full potential over the study year.

Contact person: **Supriya Akerkar**
sakerkar@brookes.ac.uk

Meet a Student:

Josefina Torres Pohl, MA DEP Alumna

I currently work with the Social Real Estate of TECHO-Chile, designing innovative housing projects that address the challenges of housing precariousness in the country. Solutions include emergency and transitional shelter, rental assistance to vulnerable groups, and social housing.

DEP Masters programme has helped me to look at housing issues in a holistic way, incorporating new DRR and resilience dimensions into my design processes. These include use of appropriate technologies and materials, and designing with the participation of communities to improve their health, safety, and quality of life.

I greatly enjoyed studying in an international environment, enriching myself with the lessons learned and vast experiences from my colleagues and tutors from different parts of the world.

Celebrating 20 years of the Oxford Human Rights Festival

The Oxford Human Rights Festival will run from 11-20 March 2022 with a focus on 'Movement'. The plan is to have a blended approach to the festival with in person and online events. We are excited to be back in talks with the award winning Architect Yasmeen Lari, Pakistan's first female architect, in hopes to have her with us.

Over the summer we began our 'heritage project'. We have been researching the trajectory of the festival over the last 20 years by speaking to past students, staff, speakers and volunteers. It's been inspiring and we look forward to sharing their stories with you next year.

With an aim to continue to support the human rights discourse, we will have fringe events this year and next. Taken by refugees themselves from their camps, the 'Young Rohingya Refugee - The Next Generation' photography exhibition will run from 1-30 Sep at Common Ground Workspace and then move to Tap Social in Botley from 17 Oct-30 Dec. We are thankful for the support of the local businesses and communities of Oxford.

We have also collaborated on the Oxford Brookes Chaplaincy Lecture. On 17 Nov journalist, writer, comedian, and Oxford City Labour councillor Shaista Aziz will deliver a talk on intersections of racism and faith phobia.

Booking for a talk by the founder of The Next Generation" photography exhibition on the 17 Sept can be found [here](#).

Booking for 17th Nov Oxford Brookes Chaplaincy Lecture [here](#)

Elizabeth Laskar

Mindful Sheltering: a new publication from CENDEP and CARE International

CENDEP and CARE International UK, both partners in the Self-recovery from Humanitarian Crisis research team, hosted a Shelter and Mental Health Learning Event in May 2021. Over 80 Shelter and Settlements, Health, WaSH, Protection and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) practitioners and researchers explored the connections between living conditions, Shelter and Settlements humanitarian activities and mental health. Mindful Sheltering, available to download [here](#), reports on the online learning event.

Mindful Sheltering is a compilation of the presentations made at the event, from Shelter and Settlements researchers and practitioners and experts in MHPSS in emergencies, along with background literature and the key points and recommendations arising from discussion.

A person's mental health and psychosocial well-being is affected as much - or even more - by their living conditions as it is by their experiences of crisis and disaster. Inadequate shelter and poor access to water and sanitation facilities are among the 'daily stressors' that contribute to mental distress for individuals and communities and are therefore detrimental to early recovery and eventual development. The Shelter and Settlements sector can promote good mental health and psychosocial well-being not only through the services it provides, but how it provides those services.

MINDFUL SHELTERING



Recognising and Enhancing the Impact of Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements on Mental Health and Psychosocial Well-Being

Proceedings of the Shelter and Mental Health Learning Event, May 2021



Get in touch with **Sue Webb** (s.webb@brookes.ac.uk) for further information or ideas for collaboration on shelter and health research.

The Economic Impact of the Syrian Refugee Crisis in Lebanon

New study commissioned by the World Refugee & Migration Council, in collaboration with the Centre for Lebanese Studies (CLS)

The study is one of three studies commissioned by the World Refugee and Migration Council with support from Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), to respond to its 2019 Call to Action suggesting concrete ways to transform the increasingly dysfunctional international refugee system, and to assess alternative solutions for Syrian refugees in the medium to long-term and the three governments hosting the largest numbers of Syrian refugees.

In *The economic impact of the Syrian refugee crisis in Lebanon: What it means for current policies*, authors Cathrine Brun (CENDEP), Ali Fakihi, Maha Shayb, and Mohammad Hammoud (CLS) provide an overview of the impact of the refugee crisis and policies on Lebanon's economic situation and propose alternative solutions that could support refugees and host communities in the context of an acute governance crisis. Combining a macroeconomic analysis illustrating the chronological impact of hosting the world's highest number of refugees per capita on various aspects of the Lebanese economy, a policy analysis on the political discourse surrounding this topic, and consultations with key experts and policy influencers, the authors illustrate the state of the post-civil war Lebanese economy, followed by the impact of the arrival of Syrian refugees on an already economically- and politically-contested country reeling from the continued effects of a global pandemic.

Crucially, the analysis found that the financial crisis that the country experiences today was not caused by the Syrian refugee crisis, but has its roots in development emerging long before the Syrian war. Blaming refugees for Lebanon's chronic economic crisis has done more harm than good – straining relationships between Syrian and Lebanese communities at the local level, placing refugee populations in Lebanon at increased risk and in need of protection, and resulting in an overreliance on support from international aid groups to the Lebanese economy.

The report provides a series of recommendations, including advising the international community, and particularly aid groups, in setting conditionalities on aid for those most vulnerable in order to shift the lens and discourse regarding refugees from a deficit to an asset. In the current context of an economic crisis in Lebanon, the authors demonstrate the imperative to change existing policies to address & mitigate poverty among both Syrian refugees and members of the Lebanese host community.

Publications

- Webb, S., Foden, G., Weinstein Sheffield, E., Flinn, B., Cidón-Martínez, J., Solera-Mata, E. (2021) **Adopting an Environmental Health Lens in Practice**, Roadmap for Research, InterAction. The publication also includes other chapter contributions by Carver, R., Flinn, B. and Parrack, C.
- Weinstein Sheffield, E. and Webb, S. (2021) **A Healthier Home is a Better Home** Shelter Projects 8th Edition

Meet our staff

- Martina Adamcikova, *Associate Lecturer*
- Supriya Akerkar, *Senior Lecturer and DEP Programme Coordinator*
- Jeni Burnell, *Research Associate*
- Cathrine Brun, *CENDEP Director*
- Richard Carver, *Senior Lecturer*
- Ian Davis, *Visiting Professor*
- Anita H Fabos, *Associate Lecturer*
- Maria Faraone, *Senior Lecturer*
- Elisa Ferrato, *Associate Lecturer*
- Simon Fisher, *Associate Lecturer*
- Bill Flinn, *Associate Lecturer*
- Nabeel Hamdi, *Emeritus Professor*
- Lisa Handley, *Visiting Research Academic*
- Louise Harris, *Visiting Research Academic*
- Zoe Jordan, *Associate Lecturer, Postdoctoral Researcher*
- Melissa Kinnear, *Associate Lecturer*
- Paul Knox-Clarke, *Associate Lecturer*
- EL Laskar, *Festival Co-ordinator*
- Anna Lindley, *Visiting Fellow*
- Aparna Maladkar, *Research Assistant*
- Charles Parrack, *Subject Coordinator Shelter after Disaster*
- Brigitte Piquard, *Reader in Humanitarian Action and Conflict*
- Lucy Heaven Taylor, *Associate Lecturer*
- Caroline Tindale, *Programme Administrator*
- Hala Caroline Abou Zaki, *Postdoctoral Researcher*
- Sue Webb, *Postgraduate Researcher*
- Sherin Alshaikhahmed, *PhD Student*
- Fatima Hashmi, *PhD Student*
- Grace Khawam, *PhD Student*
- Kate McAuliff, *PhD Student*
- Oscar Natividad Puig, *PhD Student*
- Aleyda Valdes, *PhD Student*
- Tobias Vokuhl, *PhD Student*

Read our CENDEP Blog

Find information and insights about our research on development and emergency practice, teaching activities and latest news by CENDEP students, staff and associates, at <http://cendep.blogspot.co.uk/>

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